

MARCH 2025

The

S P R E



BEL AIR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

21 Linwood Avenue Bel Air, MD 21014 • 410-838-5181

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**A NEWSLETTER FOR THE CONGREGATION AND FRIENDS OF BEL AIR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

A photograph of several purple crocuses with yellow centers, growing from a mossy, rocky ground. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, and their green leaves are visible.

**The desert and the parched  
land will be glad; the  
wilderness will rejoice and  
blossom.**

**Like the crocus, it will burst into  
bloom; it will rejoice greatly and  
shout for joy.**

**~ Isaiah 35:1-2**



## LENT

Lent is upon us. It begins with Ash Wednesday, Wednesday, March 5th this year. For some of us, it begins just before that, after all the pancakes and sausage have been served. We have a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper here at the church each year, and you're invited. We also have several Ash Wednesday options. There's a Manna House service at 11:00 am. We'll be at the door at the Linwood Circle again this year for drive-thru ashes from 12-1 pm. And then there will be a Come As You Are Service in McComas Hall at 7:15 pm. Come as you're able to come.

There's a quote about Lent that I like from Barbara Brown Taylor. She says, "We do no head straight to Easter from the spa or shopping mall. Instead, we are invited to spend forty days examining the nature of our own covenant with God. Upon what does that relationship depend? What do we trust to give us life?"

Lent is 40-days of spiritual preparation for Easter. It's often a time of fasting, prayer, meditation, self-denial, and solitude. There may not be any cheering from friends and neighbors. There certainly won't be any cheering from the culture around us. This time is completely counter-cultural. But, I invite you to consider this time anyway as an opportunity to renew your relationship with God.

During Lent, there will be a "Soup and Study" on Wednesday evenings from 6:15-7:15 pm in Room 202. Once again, come as you are. We'll be using the book, *The Message of Jesus*, by Adam Hamilton. It felt like a good follow up to our January and February preaching series on Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence. We have books here at the church office, or you may order your own through your favorite distributor. Books here at the church are \$12. Please feel to purchase one, or simply just come to the study and join in. We'd love to hear from you whether you have a book or not.

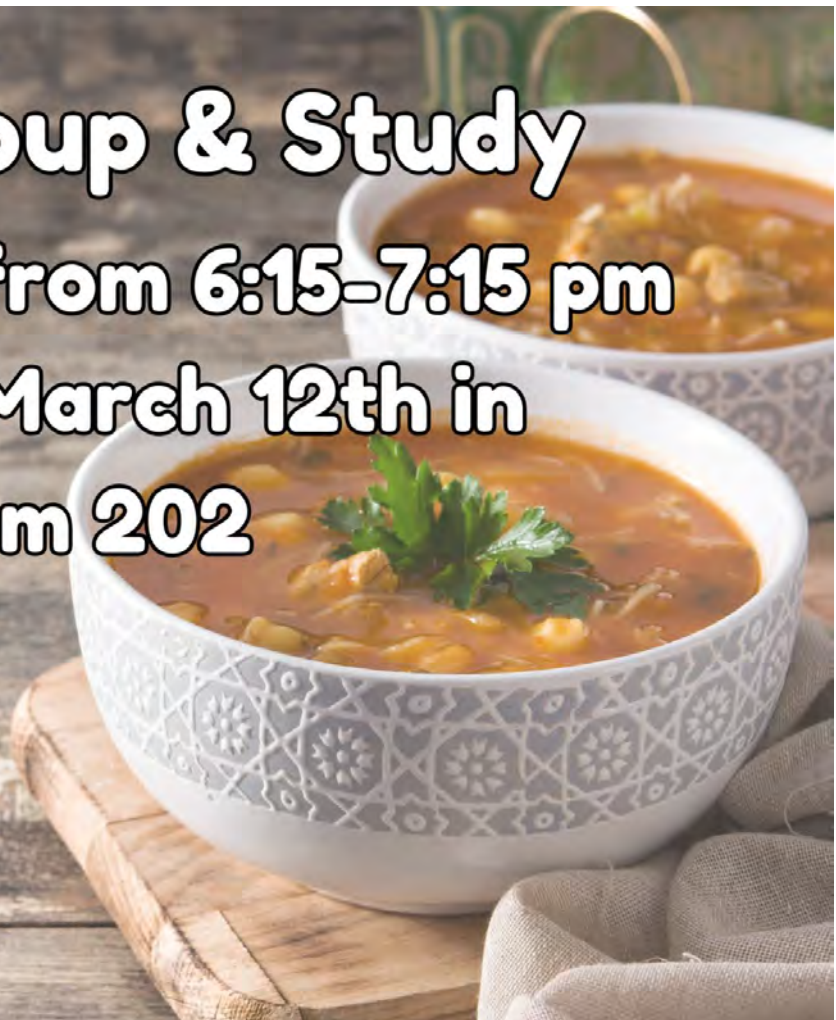
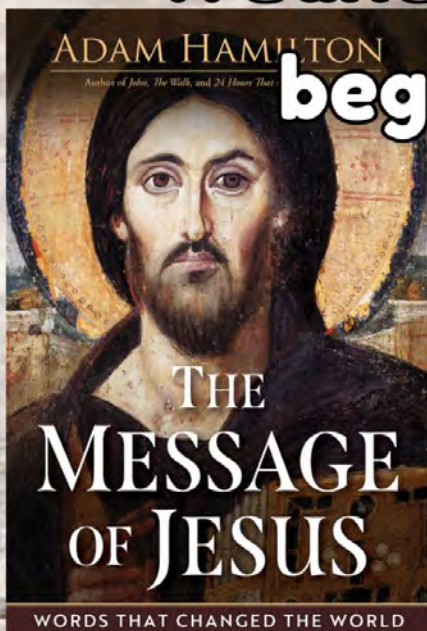
See you Sunday - Byron!

# Lenten Soup & Study

## Wednesdays from 6:15-7:15 pm

### beginning March 12th in

### Room 202





# Shrove Tuesday Pancake & Sausage Supper

March 4  
5pm - 7 pm

\$10 Adult / \$5 for Ages  
5-11 / Free for Age 4 & Under



## Ash Wednesday March 5

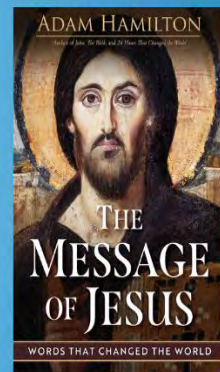
11:00 am Manna House

12 - 1 pm Drive-Thru  
Ashes at Linwood Circle

7:15 - 8 pm McComas  
Service w/ Faith Under  
Fire







## *Mt. Carmel Chapel*

*Join us for Lent at Mt. Carmel Chapel  
Sundays at 2 pm with Pastor Deb  
Studying "The Message of Jesus" by Adam Hamilton*

## *Evensong*

Thursdays at 7 pm on Facebook Live  
Beginning March 6th



## **Creation Care Team Film Fest**

**Sunday, March 9th  
from 10:30 am - 12:15 pm**

Come celebrate nature and God's wonderful world through a time of fellowship, fun and learning. View about a dozen short films ranging from 1 to 12 minutes which present themes that are informative, humorous, heart-warming, beautiful and inspiring. Enjoy a delicious variety of appetizers during the intermission. Help us select the people's choice award for the favorite appetizer.

Free and open to all. If interested in contributing your favorite appetizer,

contact Sheryl Pedrick at  
[sherylpedrick@hotmail.com](mailto:sherylpedrick@hotmail.com).



*Attention Blood  
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ONLINE AT [WWW.REDCROSS.ORG](http://WWW.REDCROSS.ORG).  
REMEMBER THAT SIGNING UP FOR  
EASY PASS WILL MAKE THE DONATION  
PROCESS FASTER AND EASIER.

**Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am – 8 pm in McComas Hall.**



# **Emergency Preparedness Training**

**Tuesday evenings from 7-9 pm on March 4, 11, 18, & 25**

**Each week we will cover different materials:**

- 
- 1. Emergency Plan/Development**
  - 2. Safety & Security/Active Assailant, Run & Fight**
  - 3. Stop the Bleed Wound Compression, Tourniquet Use & Wound Packing**
  - 4. CPR & AED Training**

**We are offering this training so the congregation knows what to do in the event of an emergency.**

**To register go to: <https://belairumc.com/EmergencyPreparednessTraining>**

## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Hello from our Prayer Shawl Ministry. For anyone who doesn't know...this wonderful group of volunteers gathers the second Wednesday of each month at 12:30 in room 202. We meet for work, inspirational messages, prayer, fellowship and fun. We make prayer shawls, comfort blankets, and pocket prayer squares to comfort people in need. They are made for the purpose of reaching out to others in Jesus' name, to let them know they are cared about, prayed for and loved. Wrapping oneself in a prayer shawl or blanket is a way to feel God's loving arms surrounding you with warmth and comfort. Carrying a mini prayer square in your pocket or purse is a tangible reminder that God is with us, in good times and bad.

Did you know that last year this ministry made over 500 prayer items for people in our church and community requesting them? We fervently pray for each other and for all those receiving our gifts of love. We help one another learn new things and strengthen our crafting skills. And did you know it's not required that you attend meetings to be a member of this ministry and to serve the Lord in this meaningful way? We have members who knit or crochet items at home and send them in for us to wrap and distribute. And did you realize that just by including our recipients and workers in your prayers, you are strengthening us and them? We thank you so much.

Remember: All of our prayer items are free of charge and available to our church family, friends and anyone in our community in need of God's loving touch. If you'd like to be a part of this meaningful and rewarding Christian Ministry, we would welcome you with open arms.

Please contact Cathy Bowden for details or more information at  
[catbowden@comcast.net](mailto:catbowden@comcast.net)



**BAUMC Kid's Ministry**



# **EASTER EXPEDITION**

**DISCOVER THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD**

**EASTER MORNING 9:15 AM**



# **VBS**

**Save the Date**

**August 4 - 8**

**9 am - Noon**



# Youth Ministries Director

**BAUMC is in search of a Youth Ministries Director, part-time, 20 hours per week, to lead all aspects of youth ministry, grades 6 through 12. If you know someone who has a solid personal relationship and faith in Jesus Christ, with experience in youth ministry, who may be interested in this position, resumes and a cover letter can be sent to:**  
**[employment@baumc.com](mailto:employment@baumc.com)**



**Where Faith And Children  
Can Grow Together**

## **AGES 3 & 4 PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN-GRADE 5 BEFORE AND AFTER CARE**

(service **Homestead Wakefield Elementary School**)

*Structured, Quality Care In  
A Warm, Christian Environment*

Theme-Based Christian Curriculum  
Age-Appropriate Activities  
Independent Choice Centers  
Opportunities For Indoor And Outdoor Play  
Homework Assistance

**Children's Christian Center Of Bel Air United Methodist Church**

21 Linwood Avenue ~ Bel Air MD 21014

410-420-8304    [ccc@baumc.com](mailto:ccc@baumc.com)

Please visit our website for more information: [cccofbelair.com](http://cccofbelair.com)

# Senior High Bible Study

**Senior High Bible Study**  
**Sundays at 10:30am in the Parlor**

## Youth Group

**The Youth Group meets the 1st and 3rd**  
**Sundays of the month from 4:30 pm - 6 pm**



## BAUMC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON-LINE!

### **BAUMC High School Graduating Senior Scholarship**

The Bel Air United Methodist Church Involvement College Scholarship is offered to high school seniors who are members of the church and who will be entering the first year of college in Fall 2025. Scholarship applications are reviewed and evaluated on three criteria – academic achievement, community and church involvement, and letters of recommendation. This scholarship award began in 1980 through a gift from Ben and Rachel Tobin, and donations from members and friends of BAUMC fund the scholarships awarded each spring.

**TO APPLY:**  
[HTTPS://BELAIRUMC.ORG/COLLEGE-SCHOLARSHIP-OPPORTUNITIES/](https://belairumc.org/college-scholarship-opportunities/)  
**QUESTIONS:** [INFO@BAUMC.COM](mailto:info@baumc.com)

### **Pay It Forward Scholarship**

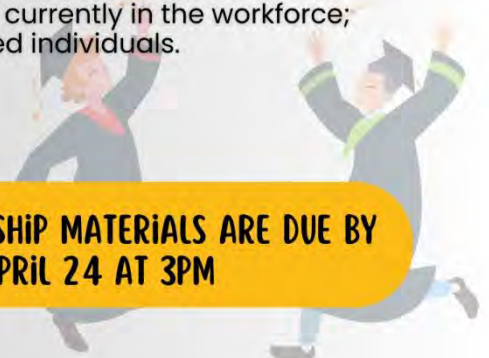


The “Pay It Forward Scholarship Endowment” provides funding for individuals seeking education beyond high school. This includes traditional higher education, trade school, apprenticeships, or job training/retraining/certifications.

Applicants may be:

- high school graduates;
- GED completers;
- individuals currently in the workforce;
- unemployed individuals.

**ALL SCHOLARSHIP MATERIALS ARE DUE BY**  
**APRIL 24 AT 3PM**





## PASS IT ON MINISTRY

**We need volunteers  
for this ministry.**

If you are able to help, please contact  
one of the Pastors or the Church Office.

Thank you!



## MANNA HOUSE SOUP KITCHEN

We need volunteers to serve  
food every Wednesday,  
10 am - 12 pm

To volunteer, contact  
[food.services@baumc.com](mailto:food.services@baumc.com)



## SENIOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION

We need regular & substitute  
drivers on the last Thursday  
of each month

To volunteer, contact  
Jamey 443-243-5578



## FAMILY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

We need volunteers to help  
bag and distribute food on  
the first Saturday of  
each month

7:00 am - 11:30 am

To volunteer, contact  
[food.services@baumc.com](mailto:food.services@baumc.com)

Make it easier for your family,  
have your final wishes known.

Use the BAUMC - My Final  
Arrangements Form

Contact the Church Office for the form

[info@baumc.com](mailto:info@baumc.com) 410-838-5183

To View Bel Air United Methodist Church Calendar go to

[https://belairumc.com/Events\\_Calendar](https://belairumc.com/Events_Calendar)





## SPECIAL OFFERING FOR MARCH NEIGHBORS IN NEED

To donate please go to

<https://belairumc.com/Give2FamilyFood-NeighborsInNeed>

Join the Prayer Team via Zoom

Wednesdays at 3:30 pm

<https://belairumc.com/PrayerTeam>

P R A Y E R

Meeting ID: 905 302 493 Password: BAUMC

To Dial In: 252 215 8782 or 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 905 302 493 Password: 242531

## Sermon by Phone

**410-800-4472**

“Sermon by Phone” enables people to call in and hear the scripture reading and sermon.

The information is updated weekly.





## **News and Notes from the Ad Council**

Greetings Church Family,

The United Methodist Book of Discipline charges the Ad Council to “provide for planning and implementing a program of nurture, outreach, witness and resources in the local church”. In her sermon last Sunday, Pastor Lynn asked us how we “live the Way of Jesus in our lives”. The incredible impact of our ministries, missions, small groups and Bible study groups in no small part help us “live the Way” here at BAUMC.

So, one of the major Ad Council goals we envision for 2025 is to help our ministries, missions, small groups and Bible study groups reach the congregation in a more personal way. We are creating a “Spotlight On” bulletin board (look for it soon in the Welcome area), designed to help get the word out about what’s happening in your ministry, mission, small group or Bible study group. You can use your creativity to share your wonderful group with the congregation...pictures, testimonies, stories, events, next steps, etc. And if you’d like, you can occasionally hang out by the bulletin board to interact with folks on Sundays after church service when they come to check it out. Please e-mail Leslie Bonomo at [jymlady@aol.com](mailto:jymlady@aol.com) if you would like to have your group featured!

Also, we have a “Help Wanted” need on behalf of the Pass-It-On ministry. The ministry works to assist people in the community who are facing BGE shut offs. A recent visit on a Monday morning while the ministry was in action led to a discussion about the type of help needed. They assured us that they work with each volunteer’s comfort zone, are flexible with scheduling, and said they could really use clerical help. Picking up phone messages, checking e-mails, checking applications for eligibility, helping maintain the data base of those who have gotten assistance in the past year...volunteers that could do any or all these things would be invaluable. And if you would like to make calls and interact directly with folks coming in for assistance you can, but it’s not necessary. The ministry operates on Mondays from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. If you can help, please contact Pastor Byron. (You can arrange to stop by on a Monday to check them out if you’d like to see exactly what they do, but please let them know ahead of time).

Well, that’s all for now friends! Be the Good!

~Leslie and Tom Bonomo, Ad Council Co-chairs





# BEL AIR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LOVE AS JESUS LOVES

21 LINWOOD AVENUE | BEL AIR, MD 21014 | 410.838.5181

The **e-Spire**, a weekly update of information, devotions, upcoming events and activities is distributed via e-mail. If you would like to receive the e-Spire, please send your e-mail address to [wolfl@baumc.com](mailto:wolfl@baumc.com). **E-spire articles are due by Wednesdays.**

E-mail to [carmenc@baumc.com](mailto:carmenc@baumc.com)

## CONFERENCE STAFF

Bishop - Rev. LaTrelle Miller Easterling

District Superintendent - Rev. Ann Laprade

## BEL AIR UMC STAFF

Lead Pastor - Rev. Byron E. Brought

Associate Pastor - Rev. L. Lynn Boyd

Family Pastor - Rev. Deb Lampton

Director of Music/Chancel Choir Director - David Tramontana

Bookkeeper - Meg Kolarik

Administration Specialist/Mgr - Lisa Wolf

Administration/Congregational Care Asst. - Cheryl Carmen

Hospitality Coordinator - Alice Archer  
[aaarcher@comcast.net](mailto:aaarcher@comcast.net)

Wedding Coordinator - Cheryl Firth  
[cherylfrith@gmail.com](mailto:cherylfrith@gmail.com)

E-mail for BAUMC Staff: last name first  
initial @ baumc.com  
(ex: [broughtb@baumc.com](mailto:broughtb@baumc.com))

[Current addressee of ]

## Welcome One Homeless Shelter Volunteers Needed to Cook & Serve in 2025

Every month on the 27th, Bel Air United Methodist Church volunteers to cook and serve a meal at the homeless shelter in Belcamp. A team of three to four people is needed each month. All the foods are provided through the Neighbors in Need Food Ministry (no expenses to volunteers).

The hours are from 4:15 - 7 pm.

Location is: 1221 C

Brass Mill Road (right off  
route 543) in Belcamp 21017



Go to <https://belairumc.com/2025CooknServe> to sign-up or contact Lisa Wolf at 410-838-5181 or [wolfl@baumc.com](mailto:wolfl@baumc.com).

We will have a support staff for volunteers who are volunteering for the first time.

## IT'S OK TO ASK FOR HELP



- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-(TALK) 8255
- Transgender Suicide Hotline: Trans Lifeline 877-565-8860
- 988 - Mental Health Hotline

## SUBMISSIONS FOR APRIL NEWSLETTER

Do you have an event or article you'd like to see in **APRIL** edition of the SPIRE? Send them to [wolfl@baumc.com](mailto:wolfl@baumc.com) and [carmenc@baumc.com](mailto:carmenc@baumc.com) by **12 noon, Monday, MARCH 24.**

**Church Office Hours Monday – Friday 9am – 4pm**